

Ad Hoc Community and Public Works Planning Committee (CAPP)
Alternative Energy Committee (AEC)
July 1, 2010 10:00 A.M. Meeting

Members present: Burke Henry, Vice Chair; Carl Frederickson, Alan Fischlowitz and Tom Banner

Members absent: Larry Bean.

Also present:

1. Call to order.

Meeting of the Alternative Energy Committee called to order by Vice-chair Burke Henry at 10:10 AM on Thursday, July 1, 2010. A quorum of the committee is present as listed above. Rory Artig, representing Windustry will be here for the posted AEC meeting at 12:30 PM today and will also be available for the posted meeting of the AEC tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

2. Review and approval of the following AEC minutes:

A. May 27, 2010

Spelling of last name as listed in Also present corrected to read Nathan Kilger; spelling of name in agenda item 5 should be T-Boone Pickens.

Motion by A. Fischlowitz to approve the May 27, 2010 AEC minutes as corrected. Second, T. Banner. All in favor, 4 ayes. Motion carried.

3. Financial Status

A. Fischlowitz will complete the paperwork required by the Island Association regarding the funds that will be received from the Minneapolis Foundation for the AEC.

A. Fischlowitz suggests that the AEC request funds from the Island Association.

Motion by B. Henry to authorize A. Fischlowitz to apply for a grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the Island Association to help us move the tower from Big Bay State Park (BBSP) to the north end of the island. Second, T. Banner. All in favor, 4 ayes, motion carried.

When we meet with Rory Artig the AEC will find out what we can do or cannot do with the grant money from Windustry.

The tower at the north end will not include SODAR.

4. Met tower Status.

Arnie Nelson has to approve the location of the tower on their land at the north end gravel pit and has been unable to find the time to accompany B. Henry and C. Frederickson to that location. T. Banner said he will talk to Ronnie Nelson, co-owner to see if Ronnie could approve the location.

B. Henry is waiting to send all the requested information to Bad River once the contract is signed by Bad River for lease of the tower.

B. Henry sent an email to Greg Behling at Big Bay State Park (BBSP) as no data from the tower has been received from June on. The email was answered by Mark Eggleston and Mark sent a month's worth of data. Mark said Greg was extremely busy.

A. Fischlowitz said Seventh Gen is waiting on the anchors. Seventh Gen would like barriers to secure the guy-wires; A. Fischlowitz will talk to Arnie Nelson about the cost to pour 8 cement cubes.

B. Henry has a packet for Rory Artig regarding data at BBSP through the middle of June.

5. Discussion of PSC (Public Service Commission) wind turbine siting public hearing conducted at Fond du Lac on 6/28/2010.

B. Henry and C. Frederickson attended the public hearing on Monday. C. Frederickson submitted a memorandum regarding the hearing which is distributed to the committee.

6. Discussion of tour of Byron, WI wind farm area.

B. Henry presents pictures and sound measurements from the trip he and C. Frederickson took to Byron, WI. First stop was in Brownsville WI, a small, prosperous town. A large industrial facility, ~~Michael's~~ Micheel's Corporation is located there. They could see about 30 turbines. There was a steady 15 knot wind.

The sound pressure in the motel room was 61+ to 62+ dbc; 63-64 dbL and 50-51 dba. When the air conditioner was turned off the reading went down 10 db; highway sounds brought the reading back up. DbA is the scale being used by the PSC; the difference between dba and dbc is that the dbc goes to much lower frequencies.

Readings at the turbine area were 48-58 dba and 65-75 dbc. A riding lawnmower was running at the same time. You could hear the whoosh of the turbine blades.

The next reading was to be taken in a rural farm area but a pack of dachshunds appeared and drowned out the sound of the turbines. About 100 yards from the site they measured 43-54 dba (this included all sounds).

Question if we know how much these turbines are saving the taxpayer.

B. Henry said a private company put up this development. A developer comes to an area, knocks on doors and presents contracts for the use of land. Property owners see a monetary advantage and sign the contract. There are instances where a person did not sign the contract but their neighbor did and now the neighbor has a turbine on his property which they get money for but the noise affects the person who did not sign the contract. There is also language in the contract that does not allow the person who signed the contract to complain.

B. Henry and C. Frederickson left that site and found an access road to a turbine. There was no signage so they walked up to the turbine. They could hear the turbine quite well from 100 yards away as well as a humming sound from the transformer, periodic noises in the turbine and a loud air-conditioning sound. The blades threw a shadow each time a blade passed. A house was close by.

They went to Byron, WI near the site of Gerry Meyer, who gave the lecture at the Museum on turbine noise. Byron has a very nice town hall area. On the other side of freeway there were two turbines – Vesta 165's which were very close together; the blades almost in sync.

B. Henry and C. Frederickson then attended the Public Service Commission (PSC) public hearing. B. Henry had four categories regarding the public comment: Proposed PSC regulations too strict; PSC regulations ok; negative about wind energy and PSC regulations too weak. B. Henry said there were a large number of people from Holland, WI. which has a reputation to keep wind developers out. The Town Board in Holland wants to see a 2640' setback and 35dba. C. Frederickson said there is concern about stray voltage which comes from improperly grounding the lines and has killed a lot of cattle. B. Henry said inspection was a big topic and people did not want to see developers in charge of inspections. C. Frederickson said there seemed to be a lot of distrust of the PSC. The PSC handed out a sheet of paper for people to fill out so they could speak. Gerry Meyer attended but never said a word.

A property owner of 40 acres, zoned for 20 acres said they could sell a 20 acre parcel and the new owner would be able to build a house on that land, but if a turbine was located on a neighboring property the new residence could not be closer to the turbine than 3.1 the total height of the turbine which could make the 20 acres unbuildable. A turbine can be located 1.1 times the turbine height from the property line.

This was a very valuable trip and they learned a lot.

7. Discussion of possible locations of wind turbines on Madeline Island.

B. Henry sent an email to committee members and he would like comments. He said he has been swayed away from the big 1.5 turbines because of the noise issue. His analysis has shown that we could meet our goal of 100% of sustainable energy use with six 600 Furlender type turbines. He presents a map showing the possible location of turbines. Property owners are shown on top and the PSC requirements are on the bottom of the chart. The Town could buy the land that is for sale in that area in order to meet setback requirements.

Discussion of the map and transportation issues, including the size of crane and road construction that would need to be done. If the PSC decides that a half a mile setback is required then a reduction from 100% of sustainable energy from turbines would have to be reduced at least to 50%.

8. Discussion of status of Windustry RBEG grant.

To be discussed with Rory Artig.

9. Discussion of ownership/management/financial models.

B. Henry has an estimate of costs for various components of this project such as wind measurement and SODAR (\$32,000); professional engineer for interconnection at \$100/hr, economic impact, wildlife studies, bird migration studies, noise, ambient measurements, viewshed, ground impact estimates, program management consultant. This could cost an estimated over \$136,000 and would be a full time job.

Agreement this committee has to go to the Town to find out if people want this project to continue as a community program. Does the town wish to purchase land for this project? Are people interested in investing? The management and financial structure will be complicated and will take a full time person a couple of years to make this happen. This project cannot be accomplished with volunteer committee time alone.

B. Henry said he will present information from the PSC, noise, and siting information to the Town Board at the July 13, 2010 Town Board meeting.

Question if the AEC can establish a point – because of this or that we know this project will not happen. Discussion of noise – if the PSC said the noise requirement is 50 dba at a wall of an existing residence how would you vote knowing that the reading is 35dba in a house with a window open and 45dba on a deck hearing the wind and waves? But then there is all the oil in the Gulf of Mexico. We need to start somewhere.

Suggestion to recommend to the Town Board that the Town Board schedule a Special Town meeting in August regarding this project. The AEC presentation at the Museum is August 5th.

10. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by A. Fischlowitz, second, C. Frederickson. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45am.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant
Minutes approved as corrected; changes struck through; corrections in italics July 13, 2010